

Subject: RE: Klukwan School

Date: Mon, 24 Nov 2003 13:59:11 -0900

From: Cheryl Stickler <cstickler@chatham.sd.org>

To: Dan Bockhorst <dan_bockhorst@dced.state.ak.us>

CC: "Connie A. Newman" <cnewman@chatham.sd.org>

The student capacity of our building is estimated to be around 50 students. If more concrete numbers are necessary, I'll need to contact the architects who designed the building. At one time in the 80s, there were 52-55 students enrolled in Klukwan, and they were forced to utilize storage rooms and offices for classroom space.

It is fine with me to include my letter in the record. Our legislators need to understand that there is more to consider than mere dollars when addressing our Alaskan children's education needs.

Lastly, it may be an oversight, but I didn't see an attached letter. (?) I appreciate the opportunity to subscribe to the Boundary Commission list.

Thank you for sharing information with us.

Cheryl

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> From: Dan Bockhorst

> Sent: Monday, November 24, 2003 12:21 PM

> To: Cheryl Stickler

> Cc: Connie A. Newman

> Subject: Re: Klukwan School

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> Ms. Strickler: Thanks for your prompt and thoughtful response. There was one other question that I neglected to ask. Would you please tell me the capacity of the Klukwan School in terms of enrollment (i.e., how many student will the building accommodate)?

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> I understand the desire on the part of local residents to have input on any decision that might affect their schools. At this point, there are no specific proposals for consolidation of any schools, including the one at Klukwan. The legislative directive for the review of school consolidation issues was outlined in the letter that I sent to you this morning. To provide you with further information regarding the matter, I am attaching a letter from the Chair of the Local Boundary Commission and the Commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development. That letter is addressed to the Executive Director of the Alaska Municipal League, but similar letters were sent to all school district superintendents and presiding officers of

> school boards in Alaska.

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> As further information and materials are developed regarding this matter, it will be made available to the public. One way to keep informed about this matter is to subscribe to the Local Boundary Commission's public notice service. There is no charge for the service. You may subscribe at

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> http://list.state.ak.us/guest/RemoteListSummary/DCED_LocalBoundaryCommissionlist

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> Thanks again for your comments. As you will note from the attached letter, the Chair of the Commission and the Commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Developing are inviting comments for the record regarding consolidation. Please advise me if you would like me to include your earlier e-mail in the record?

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> Cheryl Stickler wrote:

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> > Dear Mr. Bockhorst,
> > I'm sorry I missed your call Friday afternoon. I'm usually available in the office during the afternoons (I teach a.m. classes), but was in meetings the day you called.

> >
> > Debra was absolutely right about email. It's the best.

> >
> > The Klukwan School was built in 1985 and our current enrollment is 40 students. We serve pre-school students 3 days/wk, and on those days we have 42 students. Of the 40 students, 29 live in the Haines Borough and 11 are from Klukwan. Of the 2 pre-school students, 1 lives in the Haines Borough and 1 lives in Klukwan. We have 4 students on a waiting list for bus space (our bus holds 18 children) - hence the waiting list. The decision to purchase a bus was made after many parent requests for their children to have an opportunity to have an education that is culturally relevant.

> >
> > There are a few different reasons for the appeal of the Klukwan setting: 1) it is smaller and students receive individualized instruction; 2) the Tlingit language/culture program is integrated throughout our school day and helps us work toward our mission statement that supports local heritage language revitalization efforts; 3) some students do not find success in larger school settings, but thrive in a system that is small enough to meet the needs of each and every child; 4) due to the village's reliance on traditional values and mores, students have an opportunity to work in an environment that reinforces respect for elders, respect for peers, and respect for the environment. Parents who send their children to this school appreciate that.

> >
> > Finally, not knowing how the process for this consolidation will progress, it is vital for you to be aware that community members must have input on the decision. If the State begins thinking about linking the Klukwan School with the Haines Borough School District, certain political issues need to be addressed. Klukwan is not part of the Haines Borough. It is a federally recognized tribe and its land is held in trust with the federal government. There is a strong political history between Klukwan and Haines that this consolidation effort may re-open.

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> > As for the Chatham School District and the Haines Borough School District, we have been educational partners for the families in our valley for many years. I feel we are building a communication bridge which allows us to work together for our communities' families. I appreciate working with our two districts' administrations and regard them highly.

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> > I would appreciate more information regarding this consolidation effort and the options that may be available for Klukwan School.

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> > Sincerely,
> > Cheryl Stickler

> >
> > cc: Connie A. Newman, Superintendent, Chatham School District

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> > > From: Dan Bockhorst
> > > Sent: Monday, November 24, 2003 6:31 AM
> > > To: Cheryl Stickler
> > > Subject: Klukwan School

> > >
> > > <<File: 110603 Senator Wilken -- intent.pdf>>
> > > Ms. Stickler: I serve as staff to the Alaska Local Boundary
> > > Commission. The 2003 Alaska Legislature directed the Local Boundary
> > > Commission and the Department of Education and Early Development to
> > > address issues relating to school consolidation. Attached is a copy of
> > > a letter from State Senator Gary Wilken dated November 6, 2003,
> > > outlining details of the legislative directive.

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> > > I have spoken with Debra Schnabel about the matter. She suggested that

> > > I also speak to you. I tried calling you on Friday, but you were
> > > unavailable. Debra suggested that I try contacting you by fax or
> > > e-mail. I would appreciate it if you would answer the following
> > > questions:
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> > > When was the current Klukwan School built?
> > > What is the current enrollment at the Klukwan School?
> > > How many of the students currently enrolled at the Klukwan School live
> > > in the Haines Borough?
> > > How many students are currently on the waiting list to attend the>
> > > Klukwan School.
> > > Of those on the waiting list, how many are residents of the Haines
> > > Borough?
> > > To what do you attribute the popularity of the Klukwan School?
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